

What is Claimed:

1. A method of setting lash in a deactivation valve lifter, the lifter including a pin housing disposed within a body of the lifter, the pin housing carrying a locking pin assembly, the locking pin assembly selectively coupling together and decoupling the pin housing and the body, said method comprising the step of:

establishing a desired axial position of the pin housing relative to the body of the lifter when said pin housing is coupled to said body by said locking pin assembly; and

- associating a spring seat with said lifter body, a portion of said spring seat engaging a top edge said pin housing to thereby establish the relative axial position of said pin housing and said locking pin assembly relative to said lifter body.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said portion of said spring seat comprises a portion having an axial dimension that establishes the relative axial position of said pin housing relative to said lifter body.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said associating step comprises the further step of selecting the spring seat dependent at least in part upon said axial dimension of said portion to thereby establish a desired amount of lash.

4. A switchable valve lifter for directly transmitting a cam lift onto a pushrod in a valve train of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

a lifter body having a first end and a second end formed for contact by a cam of said internal combustion engine;

5 a pin housing disposed within said lifter body for movement into at least one position in which the pin housing is coupled to the lifter body, said pin housing having a proximal end;

a spring tower in contact with the proximal end of the pin housing to extend the pin housing beyond said proximal end, wherein the spring tower has a tower flange; and

a helical compression spring, extending between the tower flange and said first end of said lifter body, for urging the pin housing in a direction of said push rod.

15 5. The lifter of Claim 4, further including at least one locking pin for coupling said pin housing to said lifter body and a spring seat disposed on one of said lifter body and said pin housing, said spring seat cooperating with the other of said lifter body and said pin housing to establish a clearance between said at least one locking pin and a pin chamber formed in said lifter body.